

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 6, Issue 11

April 2017

The 1st Annual Fox84 Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk

The Fox84 Initiative for Boys will have its 1st Annual Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk in Marion on April 22, 2017. The race will begin at Marion High School. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. You can register online at www.thefox84initiative.com.

THE 1st ANNUAL FOX84 INITIATIVE 5K FUN RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER
Family Fun and Activities
All Vendors Welcome
MARION SOUTH CAROLINA
PRE-REGISTRATION ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEFOX84INITIATIVE.COM
Jan 30 - Feb 28.....\$20
Mar 01-Mar 01.....\$25
Apr 02-Apr 21.....\$30
REGISTRATION DAY OF EVENT \$35
REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 AM
5K WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 AM
APRIL 22 2017
www.thefox84initiative.com

At the end of the Run/Walk there will be a host of fun filled events. A community block party is planned, which will be the perfect opportunity for brand awareness, product placement, and product giveaways, space to set up tables, tents and booths. We are expecting vendors to join this event. There will be an array of fun activities for the kids, such as ice cream, balloons and bouncy houses. For more information about the 5k Run/Walk contact Mr. Christopher Shelvin at cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com

For vendor information contact Mr. Jerry Fore at (703) 589-7225.

Councilmember Joseph Frazier Graduates From Municipal Association



Councilmember Joseph Frazier graduated from the **Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government** on February 1st. Mr. Frazier received his certificates during the Municipal Association of South Carolina's **Hometown Legislative Action Day**.

To graduate from the South Carolina Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government. Participants must complete seven required courses – two daylong session, and five other courses that can be taken in-person through the 110 offices of the Councils of Governments or online.

Established in 1986, the Institute is a program of the **Municipal Association of South Carolina** that gives municipal officials a strong foundation in the operation of local government. Offered exclusively for graduates of the **Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government**, the Association established the Advanced Institute in 2014 to provide elected officials with continuing education through classroom instruction and interaction with experienced peers.

"The Advanced Institute gives mayors and councilmembers an opportunity to explore topics of interest to cities and towns in greater depth," said **Miriam Hair**, executive director of the Municipal Association.

Officials participate in at least four of six courses to graduate from the Advanced Institute. Course topics include public safety, budgeting, utilities, advocacy, economic development and governance.

The Advanced Institute draws its faculty from South Carolina and across the country including recognized local government leaders, state officials, and college and university faculty.

The Advanced MEO institute's largest class to date graduated 70 mayors and councilmembers during the **Hometown Legislative Action Day** ceremony. To graduate from the Advanced MEO Institute. Participants must complete four of the six courses offered.

Job well done Mr. Frazier, we here at the City of Marion are very proud of you.

City presented Resolution

A resolution was presented to Mr. J. Wayne George honoring his retirement as South Carolina House Representative for District 57, a position he held from 2013 - 2016.



Mr. George has been elected to various bodies over the past 34 years, and he has always felt humbled by the opportunity to serve others. He served on Mullins City Council for 8 years and later led the city as Mayor for 16 years. He was honored by Governor Mark Sanford in 2004 as the Rural Innovator of the Year. He is well respected

in the community as owner of The George Agency, an insurance agency he founded in 1983. Mayor Davis and the members of Council thanked Mr. George for his many contributions to this community. Mr. George stated that he is grateful for the City of Marion and its elected officials for all the support provided to him over the years.



Don't forget to Vote!

Tuesday, April 11
Marion's registered voters go
to the polls.

Questions?
Call the Marion County Voter

Registrations & Election Commission at (843)
423-8268.





April 5th - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Candlelight Gifts, 235 N. Main Street

April 5th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by the Marion Baptist Church. Cost \$5.00 per person.

April 6th-8th - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Living History Days.** Marion County Museum, Exhibits and displays featuring various historical periods. For information call the Museum at 423-8299. On Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. all the 3rd Grade students from Marion County will visit the Marion County Museum. On Saturday 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. the Museum will be open to the Public, and offer a **Chicken Bog Dinner** for sale from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Entertainment by the **'End of the Road Blue Grass Band'** from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Cost \$10.**

April 6th - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office.** CD Joyner Auditorium for Hurricane Matthew Town Hall Meeting. Contact **Larkin Belton** at (803) 896-4173, for information.

April 11th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

April 11th - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **City Council & Mayoral Election.**

April 19th - 11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Denim Day Event.** For information, contact Rev. Marvin Hemingway at 843-433-8020/843-765-3469 office or 843-430-8131 Cell.

April 17th- 21st - Marion County annual **Great American Clean-up.** For information contact Christie Davis at 843-423-3904 or email cdavis@marionsc.org

April 22nd - 9:00 a.m. **The Fox84 Initiative For Boys. 1st Annual Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk.** Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. Register online at www.thefox84initiative.com.

April 29th - 11:00 a.m.—11:00 p.m. **23rd Annual Relay for life of Marion County. Relay Your Way.** Twelve Hour Cancer Walk. Join Us! Withlacoochee Park, Marion SC. For more information contact: Debbie Erwin, Event Lead at debbieerwin20@gmail.com or Chinel Boateng, Community Manager at chinel.boateng@cancer.org or 843-245-8538.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

A-Team Marion SC Neighborhood Watch

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

Happy Spring from A-Team. Hopefully as you are driving around town, you have noticed the bright yellow signs urging motorists to slow down. These signs were an idea presented to the Mayor by A-Team member, Larry Duck. It is our hope that these signs will remind people to slow down and obey the speed limit. We should never take our responsibilities as drivers lightly. Having safe streets in our city is a quality of life issue. Remember our children and grandchildren are at bus stops in the morning and afternoon. As the days are longer, children are riding bikes and chasing balls. Adults are also taking advantage of the extra hours of daylight too. Stay alert for extra activities in and around our city streets. Keep an eye out for the new signs along Dunlop St. and South Withlacoochee Ave as well as other areas of Marion. Our thanks to Mayor Davis for being responsive to our concerns about the speeding problems in our neighborhood. Also a special thanks to Larry Duck for his innovative idea. It is always more productive to be part of the solution instead of sitting on the sidelines complaining. A-Team meets the first Monday of each month at the Firehouse on E Bond St. Please, come out and join us @ 6:30 PM. Call Dolly @ 843-433-0941 for more information. Remember A-Team is the group that truly believes "We are our Neighbors' Keepers."

Who Do I call for Help??

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21

Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19

Lakesha Shannon City Clerk, Ext. 10

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18

Ainsley Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11

Elizabeth Ficik, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614

Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22

Ann Jackson, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410

Dewayne Tennie, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616

Chris Smith, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Cindy Barr, Captain, (843) 423-8616

Tony Flowers, Investigator, (843) 423-8616

Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

Chris McKenzie, Assistant Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602

Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

Alemeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Gwen and Kevin Edwards has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for March 2017. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards' will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

MAYOR'S MONTHLY BEAUTIFICATION AWARD



Mayor Davis presented the February Beautification Award to Mr. Carlton Gurley because of his hard work and dedication to the City of Marion. Gurley was recognized at the council meeting on March 14th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion.

Let us let these individual know we appreciate what they do in keeping our town clean!!

Good Morning... George's Electronics!

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

Allow me to introduce Mr. George Rogers, lifelong resident of Marion County. He hails from the Fork Community with strong family ties to Marion on the Lambert side of his family. He lives on the old family homestead in Fork dating back to the early 1900's. He nurtures 47 old pecan trees on 3 acres of family land in his leisurely time.



Fortunately for you and me, George doesn't have much leisurely time as he is the sole owner and operator of George's Electronics at 528 N. Main St. in downtown Marion. Got a problem with your electronic device? You need George! With a degree in electronic technology, George has been working in electronics since 1971, back when television sets were monstrous and composed of vacuum tubes. As George explained to me, what the electronic engineers design, he would then build. He garnered expertise in electronic repairs by working on television sets, radios, car stereos, satellites, antennae, and satellite dishes. He remembers when music was recorded on vinyl at speeds of 16, 33, 45 and 78, before CD's became "all that and more". Now George says he has noticed a resurgence of vinyl again as the quality of the sound is so much better.



George has noted a few changes in the technology of electronics, although he says that electronics itself is "basic electronics" just like you learn in school. Whereas, it used to take a full two hands to work on parts of a tv set, it now takes only two fingers to hold a part. Electronic devices are now programmed by computer boards; if the device malfunctions, you simply replace the specific computer board, rather than repair the faulty part.

Should your electronic device become ill, George will diagnosis the problem in one of several ways. First, he will check the power unit. Has it been properly turned on? If so, then he will look for any "obvious" (to him) signs of breakage. He will then assess the product to see if it is working as it should. That being done, George can then advise you of your

options. George also sells phones and service programs. When you need to renew your monthly "minutes" allotment, simply call George and he can have you reconnected in a matter of minutes, saving you the time and hassle of doing it yourself.

For a man who previously owned Marion Electronics in the old Pee Dee Block Building on Jones Ave., and had a staff of several employees, George seems quite at home going it alone now and he will gladly help you navigate your personal electronic device. His hours are 9:30-6:00 M-F and 9:30-1:00 on Saturday. He can be reached at 843 423-0712. Now, about those pecan trees.....

MARION CHAMBER BOOK PROJECT



The Marion Chamber of Commerce is in its 6th year of distributing books for the third graders of Marion County. To date the Chamber has distributed over 2000 books. The book given is "Francis Marion and the Legend of The Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer, who lives in the Clemson area of the state. This project has had a two-fold impact - impressing the importance of reading and giving the young people a sense of just how important our county was in the history of our nation. This year with the assistance of Darrell Jameson, Chamber President, Deborah Martin, Chamber Vice-

President, Brian Wallace, Director and Deborah Wimberly, Director, and Cindy Rogers, Executive Vice-President, the Chamber distributed the books in the public schools. Without the help of our member sponsors this project would not have been possible. We appreciate their commitment to the Chamber and also to the students in Marion County.

The book plate inside each book reads: The Marion Chamber of Commerce along with businesses and individuals listed below present this book to you for your personal library. We hope our gift reminds you of General Francis Marion's legacy, his role in the history of our country and local community, and Marion County's importance in our nation's history.



Book Project Sponsors:

- Anderson Brothers Bank
- Ralph & Lynne Atkinson
- Bridgers Drug Store
- Karen Coleman & Debra Buffkin
- H. V. Gore
- Jordan Scrap Metal
- Robert E. Lee, Attorney at Law
- Merritt's Deer Processing
- Refurbish in the Middle
- Richardson Funeral Home

- John Q. & Patricia Atkinson
- Charlie and Frances Bethea
- Candlelight Gifts
- Duke Energy
- Groupe Beneteau
- Bill & Judy Johnson
- Marion County Healthcare Foundation
- Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank
- Mrs. Lina Rice
- Brian Wallace, Marion County Sheriff

SINGLETARY CITY'S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



The City of Marion is proud to announce Sanitation Department employee Larry Singletary as its February 2017 Employee of the Month.

Larry has been employed with the City of Marion since 2005. He first worked for the Wastewater Department and was transferred to his current position in the Sanitation Department in July 2008. Larry's responsibilities include collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

The Mayor and Council recognized Larry Singletary for his dedicated service to the City of Marion and its citizens at the March 14th Council Meeting

Palmetto Disaster Recovery Information

The SC Disaster Recovery has an office located in the Marion County Administration Building at 2523 E. Highway 76, Marion SC 29571.

For appointment please call [1-888-860-7137](tel:1-888-860-7137).

.....GOING ON IN MARION

City of Marion Annual banquet

The City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was held on March 22nd and several awards were presented including revealing the 2016 Employee of the Year.



Mayor Bobby L. Davis stated that this award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year and is the highest honor of the program. A committee is appointed by the Mayor to receive nominations from Department Heads and review the work of each employee nominated. This committee meets to select whom they believe has made the most significant contribution to the city. Once again a deserving individual was chosen and he wholeheartedly agreed with their decision. **ROBERT TAYLOR.** Robert came to work for the City of Marion Street Department in June 2004. He takes great pride in everything he does and is a great asset to the department. He works on beautification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer and decorating the City for the Christmas season. He is very creative and dedicated to his work in beautifying the City of Marion.

His supervisor, Ronnie Sanders, stated that he is 3rd in line to oversee the department when he is away, and he can always count on him to do whatever needs to be done. He added that he could not ask for a better employee. Robert has a strong work ethic and is always willing to take on any additional tasks assigned to him. Robert was named *Employee of the Month in June 2011 and September 2015.*

Public Service Award - As in years past, a very deserving person was chosen to receive this year's Public Service Award. It's always a daunting task for the committee to choose just one person, as there are so many folks dedicated to the betterment of our City. These year the Public Service Award was presented to **THE MARION COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS.** These brave professionals acted with urgency and compassion as they brought residents to safety. Their skills and courage are unparalleled, and their quick actions made the difference between life and death for the residents of our community. We all admire these local heroes when there's an event that makes headlines, but they rarely receive recognition for their daily acts.

On October 8, 2016, Marion County was hit by one of the most devastating storms this area has ever seen, Hurricane Matthew. This group immediately took action to ensure the safety of all Marion County residents. Due to the size of the flood, it took tremendous effort and courage to rescue those who were trapped by flood waters and downed trees. This group worked tirelessly to evacuate residents by boat and emergency vehicles. We want to express our gratitude for the outstanding sacrifices and courage demonstrated by this group. We proudly presented the public Service Award to The Marion County First Responders.

Fire of the Year: Chandler Tisdale

Police Office of the Year: Cpl. Eric Poston

Chief's Award: Lt. Bessie Gause



After presenting the awards for loyal services of 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, years and the retirees, the fun began with the drawing for door prizes donated by various businesses. Everyone was waiting patiently for the grand prizes; a gas and charcoal grill, donated by AWS of Marion and a Trimmer donated by Barry's Outdoor Power of Mullins. Mr. Winky Fore was the lucky ticket holder of the night. Mr. Fore received the first door prize which was the grill. Ms. Mable Thompson won the Trimmer.

Mayor Davis thanked all who donated generously to honor the city's employees and guests. What a wonderful and blessed night of fellowship!! Congratulations to all the city employees for your hard work and dedication to the City of Marion. And a special thanks to Woodhaven for hosting the event.

Marion 17U Win Eastern District Championship



Congratulation to Marion Recreation 17U Boys All-stars for winning the Eastern District Championship and 1st runner up in the State Championship.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Administrator Alan Ammons, Marion City Council and Marion Residents are so very proud of you guys.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.